

aligned to receive said at least one tab, thereby allowing the printer component to be operably secured to the mounting portion and preventing similarly shaped printer components that have a different tab pattern from being operably secured to the printer component mounting portion.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Amended) A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer comprising:

a printer component mounting portion operably secured to the printer;

a separate key element secured to the component mounting portion, adjacent to said printer component, said separable key element further including a display surface for visually indicating a required characteristic of the printer component;

at least one tab extending from the printer component, said at least one tab positioned and oriented in a defined and unique tab pattern thereby indicating said required characteristic of the printer component; and

said discrete key element having at least one mating slot positioned and aligned to receive said at least one tab, thereby allowing the printer component to be operably secured to the mounting portion and preventing similarly shaped printer components that have a different tab pattern from being operably secured to the printer component mounting portion.

9. (Previously Amended) The mechanism for establishing printer component compatibility with a printer of claim 8, wherein said display surface has a unique shape, and further including a label displaying surface indicia thereon to indicate said required characteristic of the printer component and having said unique shape for being operably secured to said display surface.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Twice Amended) An inkjet printer comprising:

a chassis;

a motor;

a carriage operably secured to the chassis and driven by the motor for reciprocal movement relative to the chassis;

an ink reservoir secured to the printer at a mounting portion, said ink reservoir having a unique pattern of tabs extending therefrom thereby indicating a characteristic of the ink received within the reservoir;

a printhead operably secured to the carriage, in fluid communication with said ink reservoir, and in electrical communication with a controller;

a discrete key element, operably secured to and separable from said mounting portion, said key element having a pattern of slots sized to receive the pattern of tabs extending from the ink reservoir, thereby allowing said ink reservoir to be operably secured to the mounting portion and preventing ink reservoirs having a different pattern of tabs from being operably secured to the first mounting portion.

12. (Twice Amended) An inkjet printer comprising:

a chassis;

a motor;

a carriage operably secured to the chassis and driven by the motor for reciprocal movement relative to the chassis;

an ink reservoir secured to the printer at a mounting portion, said ink reservoir having a unique pattern of tabs extending therefrom thereby indicating a characteristic of the ink received within the reservoir;

a printhead operably secured to the carriage, in fluid communication with said ink reservoir, and in electrical communication with a controller;

a discrete key element detachably secured to said mounting portion, said key element having a pattern of slots sized to receive the pattern of tabs extending from the ink reservoir, thereby allowing said ink reservoir to be operably secured to the mounting portion and preventing ink reservoirs having a different pattern of tabs from being operably secured to the first mounting portion.

13. The inkjet printer of claim 12, wherein said separable key element includes a unique slot for operably engaging a protrusion extending from said mounting portion, thereby allowing said separable key to be secured to said mounting portion, and preventing key elements that are missing said unique slot from being secured to said mounting portion.

14. (Previously Amended) The inkjet printer of claim 11, wherein said separable key element further includes a display surface displaying surface indicia thereon for visually indicating said characteristic of the ink received within the reservoir.

15. (Amended) The inkjet printer of claim 14, wherein said mounting portion is mounted to said carriage defining an on-axis ink reservoir.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Amended) A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer comprising:  
a printer component mounting portion operably secured to the printer;  
a key element detachably secured to the printer component mounting portion, adjacent to said printer component, said key element operably engaging the key code of the printer component to allow the printer component with the defined key code to be operably secured to the printer component mounting portion.

22. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said key element prevents similarly shaped printer components that have a different key code thereon from being operably secured to the printer component mounting portion.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Amended) A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer comprising:  
a printer component mounting portion operably secured to the printer; and,  
a discrete key element attachably secured to the printer component mounting portion, adjacent to said printer component, said key element operably engaging the key code of the printer component to allow the printer component with the defined key code to be operably secured to the printer component mounting portion;  
wherein said defined key code is related to a desirable characteristic of said printer component and said key element includes surface indicia thereon to visually indicate the desirable characteristic of said printer component.

25. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said key element includes a mounting portion key element for operably engaging a mating key on said mounting portion.

26. (Previously Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim 2, wherein said key element includes surface indicia thereon to visually indicate the required characteristic of said printer component.

27. (Previously Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim 2, wherein said printer component is an ink reservoir.

28. (Previously Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim 2, wherein said printer component is an ink/printhead cartridge.

29. (Previously Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim 2, wherein said printer component is a printhead.

30. (Previously Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim 2, wherein said printer is an inkjet printer.